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MEDIA RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**HAMPTON FALLS BUSINESS OWNER
SENTENCED TO 15 MONTHS FOR ALIEN SMUGGLING**

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE – United States Attorney Tom Colantuono reports that Antonio Morgado was sentenced today to 15 months in federal prison for alien smuggling. Morgado, who is 51 years old, resides at 6 Marsh Lane Road in Hampton Falls. He owns and operates a paving, landscaping and masonry company called Morgado Paving and TM Construction located at 126 Lafayette Road in Hampton Falls.

Last July (July 23, 2002), agents from the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, together with officers from the New Hampshire State Police and the Hampton Falls Police Department executed a federal search warrant at Morgado's business and residence. In the course of the search officers discovered 31 Portuguese citizens who worked for Morgado and who were in the United States illegally.

On August 29, 2002, Morgado waived his right to have a federal grand jury consider an indictment and pleaded guilty to a charge that from December 2001 through July 2002 he encouraged 29 Portuguese citizens to enter and reside in the United States illegally. Morgado admitted that in order to gain a commercial advantage in his business he recruited workers from Portugal who entered the United States either as tourists or under the visa waiver program with Portugal. He also admitted that he knew that these employees were not allowed to work in the United States and that they were here illegally. He also acknowledged that he instructed these workers to tell authorities that they were coming to the United States for a short visit and not to work.

In commenting on Morgado's sentence, United States Attorney Tom Colantuono said that it was a "just and appropriate response to the pervasive and serious problem of bringing illegal aliens into the United States for commercial gain. This type of crime deprives U.S. citizens and others legally in this country of work and it subjects illegal workers to unregulated and potentially unsafe or improper work conditions. These are high costs for individuals and society to bear. To protect all concerned from these harms, cases like this one must be aggressively pursued and prosecuted."

In addition to being sentenced to 15 months in federal prison, Morgado was also fined \$5000 and placed on two years of supervised release upon his release from custody. He was ordered to surrender to the Federal Bureau of Prisons by August 29, 2003. Until that time, he was released on personal recognizance.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Mark S. Zuckerman.